



MISSION

The Georgia Department of Corrections protects the public by operating safe and secure facilities through the development of professional staff and effective offender management.

Timothy C. Ward, Commissioner

Randy Sauls, Assistant Commissioner Health Services Division

HEALTH SERVICES

Health Services is the division responsible for assuring that the required constitutional level of medical care is provided in the most efficient, expeditious, and cost-effective manner possible. The priority of healthcare delivery is essential to promoting offender wellbeing while protecting the public's interest.

PHYSICAL HEALTH/PRIMARY CARE



OVERVIEW

The focus of correctional healthcare is centered around the provision of primary care. Primary care is the care delivered to promote an individual's overall well-being, health maintenance, and health promotion. Healthcare is made available 24 hours a day, seven days a week to offenders and incarcerated probationers at all state facilities. Physicians oversee and direct all aspects of healthcare delivery. Under the supervision of physicians, physician extenders also participate in the delivery of healthcare. These providers include advanced nurse practitioners and physician assistants. A wide array of services are provided and include physical examinations, routine diagnostics, medical imaging, immunization, sick call, and referral to specialty and subspecialty care. Care is provided according to GDC guidelines and evidence-based practice.

Healthcare services provided include but not limited to:

- Access to sick call
- Access to immediate urgent care
- Access to chronic care (Diabetes, Asthma, Cardiology, etc)

Preventative care is provided to ensure the continuity of care through an established system of periodic examinations, laboratory studies, and chronic care clinics. A periodic health assessment is provided to all offenders. Guidelines from the US Preventive Services Task Force are incorporated. For those offenders under the age of 50 and who are otherwise healthy, a physical examination every two years will be provided. Those offenders over the age of 50 and/or who have an identified chronic illness will be provided a physical examination annually. Offenders are provided annual flu shots, tuberculin skin tests, and other immunizations. Offenders diagnosed with a chronic care illness are assigned to a chronic care clinic for monitoring and management to include diabetes, cardiac, pulmonary, infectious disease, and Dialysis.

Chronic care clinics include: hypertension, seizure disorder, diabetes, pulmonary, cardiovascular, cancer, hyperlipidemia, and infectious disease.

TELEMEDICINE

Telemedicine is a technology used to provide specialty consultation services to offenders/probationers virtually. GDC leverages numerous physician practices from across the state to increase offender access to various medical specialties.

Telemedicine services are available in all state prisons. Each site has the capability to connect to ASMP, the host site, where medical providers will consult with the offender virtually from the offender's home facility with assistance from licensed medical staff.



HEALTH SERVICES



WOMEN'S HEALTH SERVICES

The focus of women's health services addresses the unique health care needs of female offenders with regard to health maintenance, health promotion, pregnancy, and prenatal care. In addition to those services described in preventative care, female offenders' services include additional programs and services unique to women.

DIAGNOSTIC, HEALTH MAINTENANCE & CHRONIC CARE

- Female offenders are provided an annual health assessment and/or physical an annual pap smear and baseline or periodic mammograms.
- All-female offenders are provided a review of their health history, recording any significant health events or chronic illnesses regarding menstrual cycle, pregnancies & gynecological conditions.
- Female offenders are also provided clinically appropriate routine laboratory test and other diagnostic test used to evaluate and monitor those females with chronic illnesses.

PREGNANCY & PRENATAL CARE

- Pregnant female offenders, upon confirmation of pregnancy, are housed in a dedicated facility specifically staffed to manage prenatal care.
- Prenatal counseling is offered by licensed healthcare providers.
- Routine prenatal care is provided to all pregnant females, including medical examinations and recommendations on promoting a healthy pregnancy. Additional counseling is provided, including safety precautions, nutritional counseling and self-care during pregnancy.
- Pregnant offenders receive weekly visits on-site with an obstetrician. Additional visits may be provided as medically required.
- High-risk pregnancies are evaluated in accordance with community practices. All offenders will deliver at a local community hospital OB department with a dedicated obstetrical program.
- For deliveries, offenders are transported to designated area hospital by local Emergency Medical Services provider and accompanied by a Correctional Officer.



MENTAL HEALTH

Offender-focused, diagnostic, integrative health care delivery system:

- Non-pharmacological and pharmacological Interventions
- Twenty-four-hour coverage for crises stabilization
- Integrative Mental Health and Substance Abuse Treatment
- Suicide prevention programming
- Cross-generational programming
- Gender-responsive programming
- Specialized Mental Health Treatment Units (Cognitive Delayed, Personality Disorder, Dementia, Seriously Mentally Ill, Impulse Control Disorder, Transition and Dangerously Mentally Ill)
- Preparation for reentry and continuity of care
- Forensic Peer Mentors
- Licensed and licensed-eligible professional staff

LOCATIONS

Mental health services are provided within select State Prisons, Probation Detention Centers, Integrated Treatment Facilities, and Transitional Centers.

SERVICES

The Mental Health Services are comprehensive, team-driven, interdisciplinary programs. Mental health services are designed to improve the emotional stability and overall mental health of incarcerated individuals assigned to the caseload. Services reflect community and national standards.

- Diagnostic assessment/evaluations
- Psychopharmacological treatment
- Individual and/or group counseling
- Individual and/or group psychotherapy
- Crisis intervention
- Behavior management/modification
- Multi-Functional Correctional Officer services
- Activity therapy
- Peer mentoring for reentry services
- Trauma-informed treatment
- Suicide prevention groups
- Specialized programming for the seriously mentally ill
- Tele-Mental health services
- Collaboration with community services
- Sepecialized Living Unit



DENTAL HEALTH

Offenders are provided oral care by a licensed dentist & hygienist, including a full range of dental services, including dental x-ray. These services are offered at facilities according to facility classifications. Offenders requiring services not readily available at their facility will be referred as clinically indicated.

CLASSIFICATION LEVELS

Level I: Diversion and Transitional Centers

- Do not offer in house dental services.
- Provide access to routine dental service on a fee-for-service basis through a private dental practice.

Level II: Probation Detention Centers (PDC), Probation Boot Camps and Inmate Boot Camps

- Facilities without in-house dental care.
- Provide dental screening by trained healthcare staff & access to emergency dental care by a dentist at either a neighboring GDC facility or a local community contracted dental provider.

Level III: All State and Private Prisons

- Offenders may request routine dental care by written request.

Level IV: Intake Facilities

- Provide routine dental care as well as diagnostic and emergency services to incoming offenders.

Level V: Augusta State Medical Prison (ASMP)

- Provide specialized dental/oral maxillofacial surgery services and to provide routine care to resident population.

DENTAL SERVICES

- Comprehensive diagnostic services
- Treatment plan
- Operative procedures: fillings, procedures requiring castings or involving laboratory fees are not available
- Periodontal services: routine prophylaxis, scaling and root planning, closed flap curettage
- Extraction(s)
- Removable prosthodontics: complete dentures and acrylic partial dentures (limited)
- Referral to Level V facility for specialized oral maxillofacial surgery services as deemed necessary